

EXHIBIT A

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY  
TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE  
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Assignee Name and Address: NGK Insulators, Ltd.  
2-56, Suda-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-city  
Aichi-prefecture, 467-8530 Japan

appoints the patent practitioners associated with Oliff & Berridge, PLC Customer  
Number 25944 to represent it before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in  
connection with any and all U.S. patent applications assigned to the above-named assignee.

The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD  
BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NO. 25944, TELEPHONE  
(703) 836-6400.**

October 28, 2004  
Date

Takafumi Hochi  
Signature

Typed Name: Takafumi Hochi

Title: General Manager, Legal Affairs &  
Intellectual Property Department

848182101

Application No.

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of

Group Art Unit:

Application No.: New U.S. National Stage of  
PCT/JP2004/018287

Examiner:

Filed:

Docket No.:

For: PLASMA GENERATING ELECTRODE, ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD, AND PLASMA REACTOR

**SPECIFIC POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD., ☐ owner or ☒ co-owner of the entire right, title and  
interest in the above patent application by virtue of:

- a. ☐ being an inventor, or
- b. ☒ an Assignment
  - i. ☒ copy attached, or
  - ii. ☐ recorded at Reel \_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_ of the Patent Office microfilm records),

hereby appoints the patent practitioners associated with Oliff & Berridge, PLC Customer  
No. 25944 as attorneys of record to prosecute this application and all continuations and  
divisions thereof, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office.

The undersigned has reviewed the chain of title and confirms that the aforesaid title is  
in the owner. The undersigned is authorized to execute this document as or on behalf of the  
owner.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION  
SHOULD BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NO. 25944,  
TELEPHONE (703) 836-6400.**

26 MAY '06  
Date

Motoatsu Shiraishi  
Signature

Typed Name: Motoatsu SHIRAISHI

Title: Senior Managing and  
Representative Director  
(if acting on behalf of an Owner)